



AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH®

October 13, 2015

Robin M. Lisboa
Division Administrator
System of Support & District Intervention Division
Illinois State Board of Education
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 14-300
Chicago, IL 60601

RE: SIG 1003(g) Lead Partner Fiscal Year 2016 Updates

Dear Ms. Lisboa,

In November 2009, Learning Point Associates (LPA) submitted its proposal to be a preapproved lead partner for Illinois School Improvement Grants (SIG). In August 2010, LPA merged with American Institutes for Research (AIR). This merger strengthened the services that we could provide to Illinois schools and districts. According to LPA Chief Executive Officer Gina Burkhardt, "AIR has long stood as the gold standard for behavioral and social science research, particularly in the education sector. By bringing Learning Point's significant assets to such a strong organization, we can provide a continuum of research, assessment, and technical assistance at all levels that are unmatched and unrivaled."

Although the merger of LPA and AIR brought added depth of expertise and a name change for the organization, the services and team proposed with LPA's original lead partner proposal remained intact, ensuring continuity in service throughout the transition.

Since 2010, AIR has provided lead partner services to schools under SIG. This service has included East St. Louis High School, which was recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for excellent stakeholder engagement as documented on the ISBE website (see

<https://ilprincipals.adobeconnect.com/a943651142/p1kefky68ed?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal>).

We are eager to continue service with Illinois schools and districts and have submitted summaries and references of our services in the following areas:

- Planning and pre-implementation
- Governance
- Operational flexibility
- Teacher/principal evaluation with student growth component
- Recruitment, hiring, and retention incentives and strategies
- Rewards associated with (improving student) achievement and graduation rate
- Extended time
- Comprehensive instructional reform
- Job-embedded professional development
- Use of data to drive instruction
- Program monitoring
- Family and community engagement
- Sustainability
- Lead partner

Should you require additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Dawn Dolby at ddolby@air.org or 630-689-8020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Johnson".

Jessica Johnson
Vice President
Education